

# FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

EVALUATION OF SOURCE: A: Completely reliable. B: Usually reliable. C: Fairly reliable. D: Not usually reliable. E: Not reliable. (Applied to sources of doubtful loyalty or loyalty, regardless of their competence). F: Reliability cannot be judged (Applied to untested or insufficiently tested sources).

APPRAISAL OF CONTENT: 1: Confirmed by other independent and reliable sources. 2: Probably true. 3: Possibly true. 4: Doubtful. 5: Probably false. 6: Cannot be judged. Documentary: Based on original document.

S-E-C-R-E-T  
NOFORN

COUNTRY West Germany/Italy/France  
SUBJECT Ing. Rolf Engel and His Connections  
REPORT NO. RGF-2685  
DATE OF REPORT 9 January 1958  
NO. OF PAGES 2  
REFERENCES /RGF-2684

DATE OF INFO. Late December 1957

PLACE ACQUIRED Germany, Frankfurt (5 January 1958)

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. NOTE FOREGOING EXPLANATION.

SOURCE: West German scientist in touch with Engel (P)

Appraisal of Content: 3

1. Ing. Rolf Engel, born in Metz on 10 August 1912, a German space and guided missile research specialist working for the Italian government organization Sispre,<sup>1</sup> is much interested in a joint rocket development program to be undertaken by Germany, Italy, and France. He came to West Germany about ten days before the NATO Conference in December 1957, with an Italian general apparently to discuss with the West German Defense Ministry a program by which the three countries could cooperate on rocket developmental work to avoid duplication of research and eventually to develop standardized rockets for the use of the NATO countries. One of the Germans who participated in the conference was Dipl. Ing. Ludwig Boelkow, head of the Boelkow Corporation of Stuttgart, with whom Engel has been in touch on another joint program.<sup>2</sup> According to an associate of Boelkow, no joint work has yet been undertaken by the three countries, but plans to organize the developmental program are under consideration.<sup>3</sup>
2. During World War II, Engel headed a solid-fuel research and development center in the Danzig area under the German government. His team was later moved to a development center near Pribran, in the vicinity of Prague, and toward the end of the war to Munich, where it continued working until the American occupation of the area. At this point, Engel moved to the French Zone of Germany for a short time and in 1947 went to Paris to work for ONERA, a French government organization concerned with rocket development. He employed German technicians for some of his ballistic and trajectory work there.
3. In 1952, Engel accepted a job with the Egyptian government and moved to Cairo, where he remained until the summer of 1957. In Egypt, as in Paris, he employed a number of German engineers and technicians, some of whom came from Paris with him. Engel left Cairo in July 1957 to take a position with Sispre.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2003 2006

S-E-C-R-E-T  
NOFORN

## DISTRIBUTION

COSG  
WASH  
STRAT

USAREUR  
USAFE  
ROME  
PARIS

OCA/Bonn  
OCA/Bavaria  
SCI

CS COPY

4. Engel's reputation in West Germany is not very good, but he apparently wishes to return to Germany and reestablish himself there. He keeps his extensive library on rockets and missiles at Munich, where his wife has been living since she left Egypt with her husband in July 1957.

TOL-31331,077

1. Field Comment: A brief account of this firm and of Engel's connections was given in REF-2618.
2. Field Comment: This concerns Italian manufacture of the COBRA rocket; see REF-2684.
3. Field Comment: Plans for a joint program along these lines were publicly announced on 8 January 1958.